

# DEPOT POND

## 2014 SAMPLING HIGHLIGHTS

### Milton, NH



University of New Hampshire  
Cooperative Extension

Blue = Excellent =  
Oligotrophic

Yellow = Fair = Mesotrophic

Red = Poor = Eutrophic

Gray = No Data

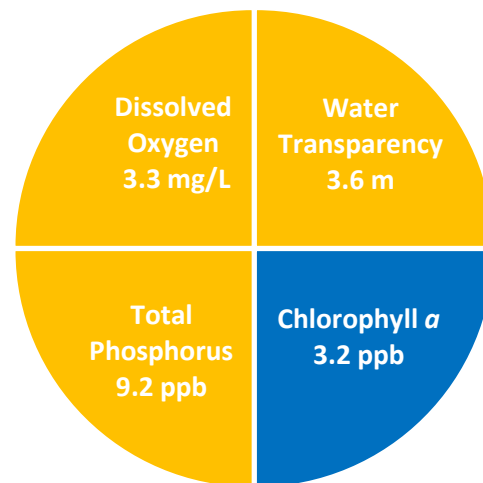


Figure 1. Depot Pond Water Quality (2014)

Table 1. 2014 Depot Pond Seasonal Averages and NHDES Trophic Level Classification Criteria

Parameter	Oligotrophic "Excellent"	Mesotrophic "Fair"	Eutrophic "Poor"	Depot Pond Average (range)	Depot Pond Classification
Water Clarity (meters)	4.0 – 7.0	2.5 – 4.0	< 2.5	3.6 meters (3.1 – 3.8)	Mesotrophic
Chlorophyll <i>a</i> (ppb)	< 3.3	> 3.3 – 5.0	> 5.0 – 11.0	3.2 ppb (2.7 – 3.9)	Oligotrophic
Total Phosphorus (ppb)	< 8.0	> 8.0 – 12.0	> 12.0 – 28.0	9.2 ppb (8.2 – 10.4)	Mesotrophic
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	5.0 – 7.0	2.0 – 5.0	< 2.0	3.3 mg/L (1.4 – 5.7)	Mesotrophic

\*Dissolved oxygen concentrations measured between 9.0 and 14.5 meters in the bottom water layer

Table 2. 2014 Station Depot Pond Seasonal Average Accessory Water Quality Measurements

Parameter	Assessment Criteria					Depot Pond Average (range)	Depot Pond Classification
Color (color units)	< 10 uncolored	10 – 20 slightly colored	20 – 40 lightly tea colored	40 – 80 tea colored	> 80 highly colored	39.0 color units (range: 32.2 – 50.2)	Lightly tea colored
Alkalinity (mg/L)	< 0.0 acidified	0.1 – 2.0 extremely vulnerable	2.1 – 10 moderately vulnerable	10.1 – 25.0 low vulnerability	> 25.0 not vulnerable	9.4 mg/L (range: 8.0 – 11.0)	Moderately Vulnerable
Specific Conductivity ( $\mu$ S/cm)	< 50 $\mu$ S/cm Characteristic of minimally impacted NH lakes		50-100 $\mu$ S/cm Lakes with some human influence	> 100 $\mu$ S/cm Characteristic of lakes experiencing human disturbances		91.5 $\mu$ S/cm (range: 91.1 – 91.7)	Some human impacts

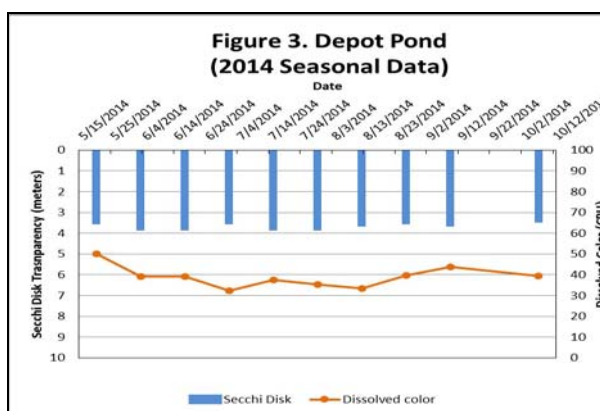
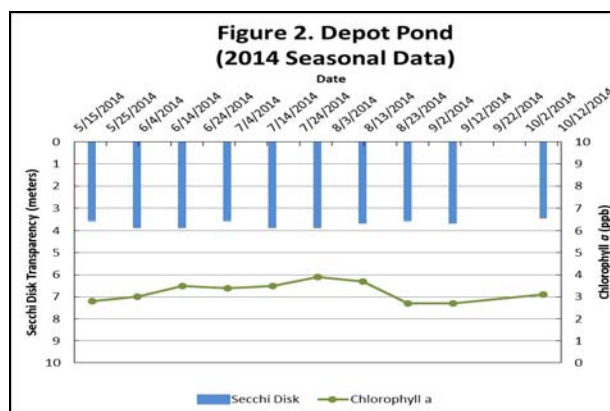


Figure 2 and 3. Seasonal Secchi disk transparency, chlorophyll *a* changes and dissolved color concentrations. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the interplay among Secchi Disk transparency, chlorophyll *a* and dissolved color. Shallower water transparency measurements oftentimes correspond to increases in chlorophyll *a* and/or color concentrations.

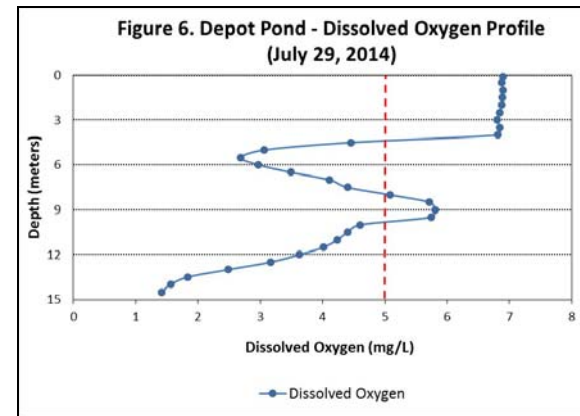
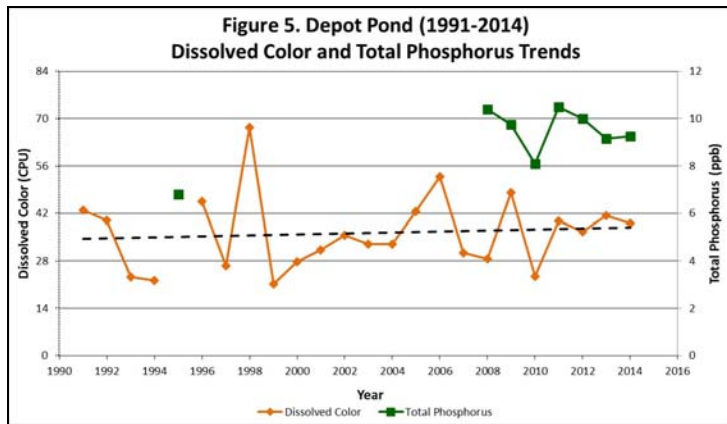
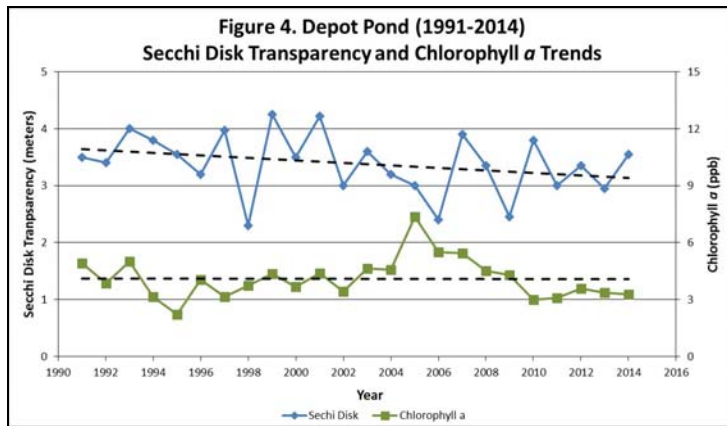
## LONG TERM TRENDS

**WATER CLARITY:** The Depot Pond water clarity measurements, measured as Secchi Disk transparency, display a trend of decreasing water clarity over the past twenty-four years.

**CHLOROPHYLL:** The Depot Pond chlorophyll *a* concentrations, a measure of microscopic plant life within the lake, display a relatively stable trend over the past twenty-four years.

**TOTAL PHOSPHORUS:** Phosphorus is the nutrient most responsible for microscopic plant growth. Due to limited total phosphorus data, including gaps among sampling years, a trend analysis was not performed. Once ten years of total phosphorus data have been collected, a trend analysis will be performed.

**COLOR:** The Depot Pond color data, the result of naturally occurring “tea” color substances from the breakdown of soils and plant materials, display a trend of increasing color concentrations over the past twenty-three years.



Figures 4 and 5. Changes in the Depot Pond water clarity (Secchi Disk depth), chlorophyll *a*, dissolved color and total phosphorus concentrations measured between 1991 and 2014. **These data illustrate the relationship between plant growth, natural water color and water clarity. Total phosphorus data are also displayed and are oftentimes correlated with the amount of plant growth.** Trendlines are displayed when ten or more years of data are available.

Figure 6. Depot Pond dissolved oxygen profile taken by the **Center for Freshwater Biology** on July 29, 2014. The vertical red line indicates the oxygen concentration commonly considered the threshold for successful growth and reproduction of cold water fish such as trout and salmon.

## Recommendations:

Implement Best Management Practices within the Depot Pond watershed to minimize the adverse impacts of polluted runoff and erosion into the lake. Refer to “Landscaping at the Water’s Edge: An Ecological Approach” and “New Hampshire Homeowner’s Guide to Stormwater Management: Do-It-Yourself Stormwater Solutions for Your Home” for suggestions that can help reduce nutrient loading caused by overland run-off.

- [http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource004159\\_Rep5940.pdf](http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource004159_Rep5940.pdf)
- <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/wd-11-11.pdf>



# Figure 7. Depot Pond

Milton, NH

2014 Deep water sampling sites with average water clarity



Aerial Orthophoto Source: NH Granit  
Site Locations GPS coordinates collected by the UNH Center for Freshwater Biology



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